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A Museum Library

Architecture

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LIBRARY

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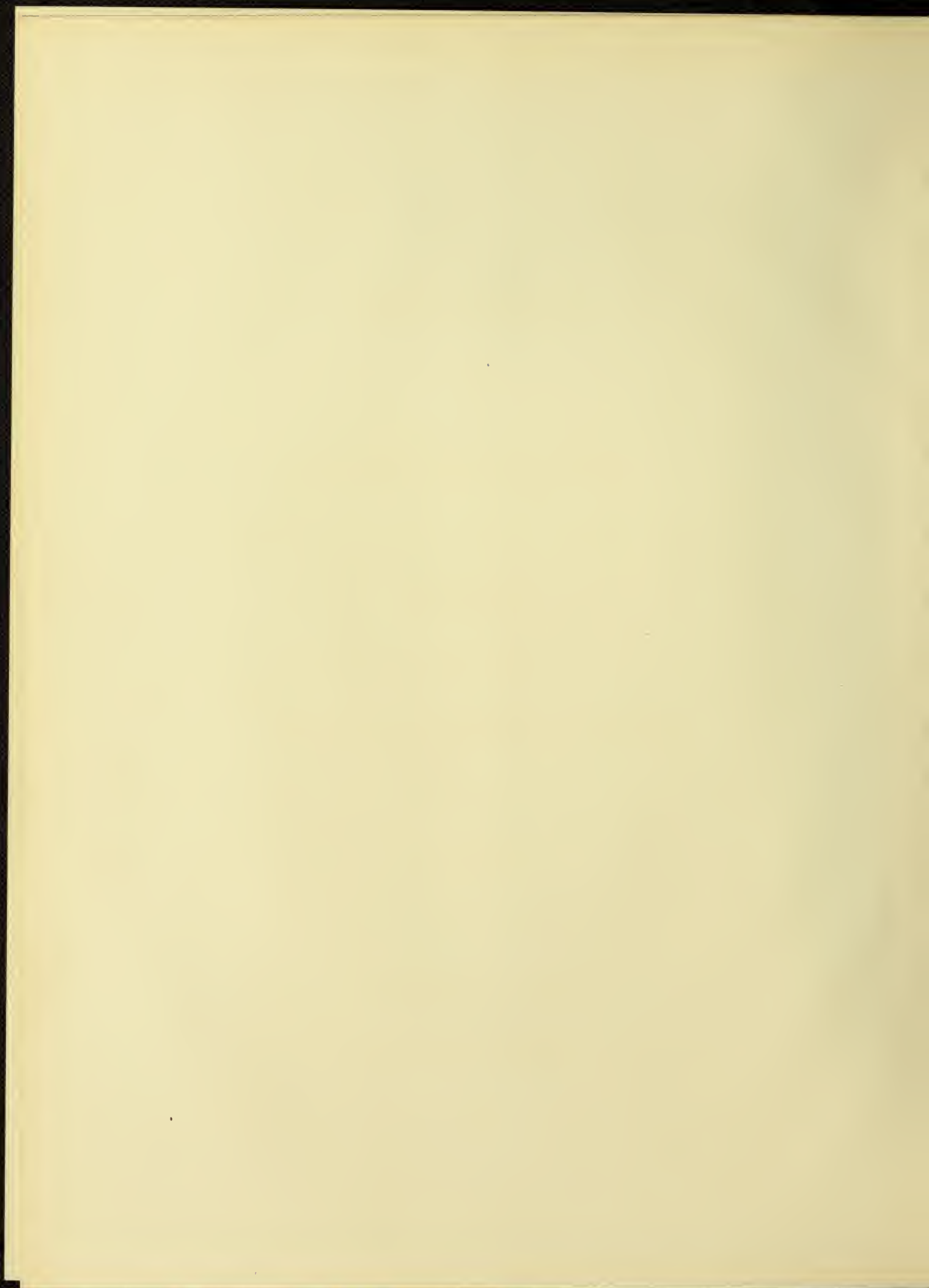
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Book

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Volume





134
204

A MUSEUM LIBRARY

BY

FREDRICK LINDLEY MORGAN

T H E S I S

FOR THE

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN

ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

1912

1912
M82

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

JUNE 1st, 1912

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

FREDERICK LINDLEY MORGAN

ENTITLED A MUSEUM LIBRARY

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE

David Varon
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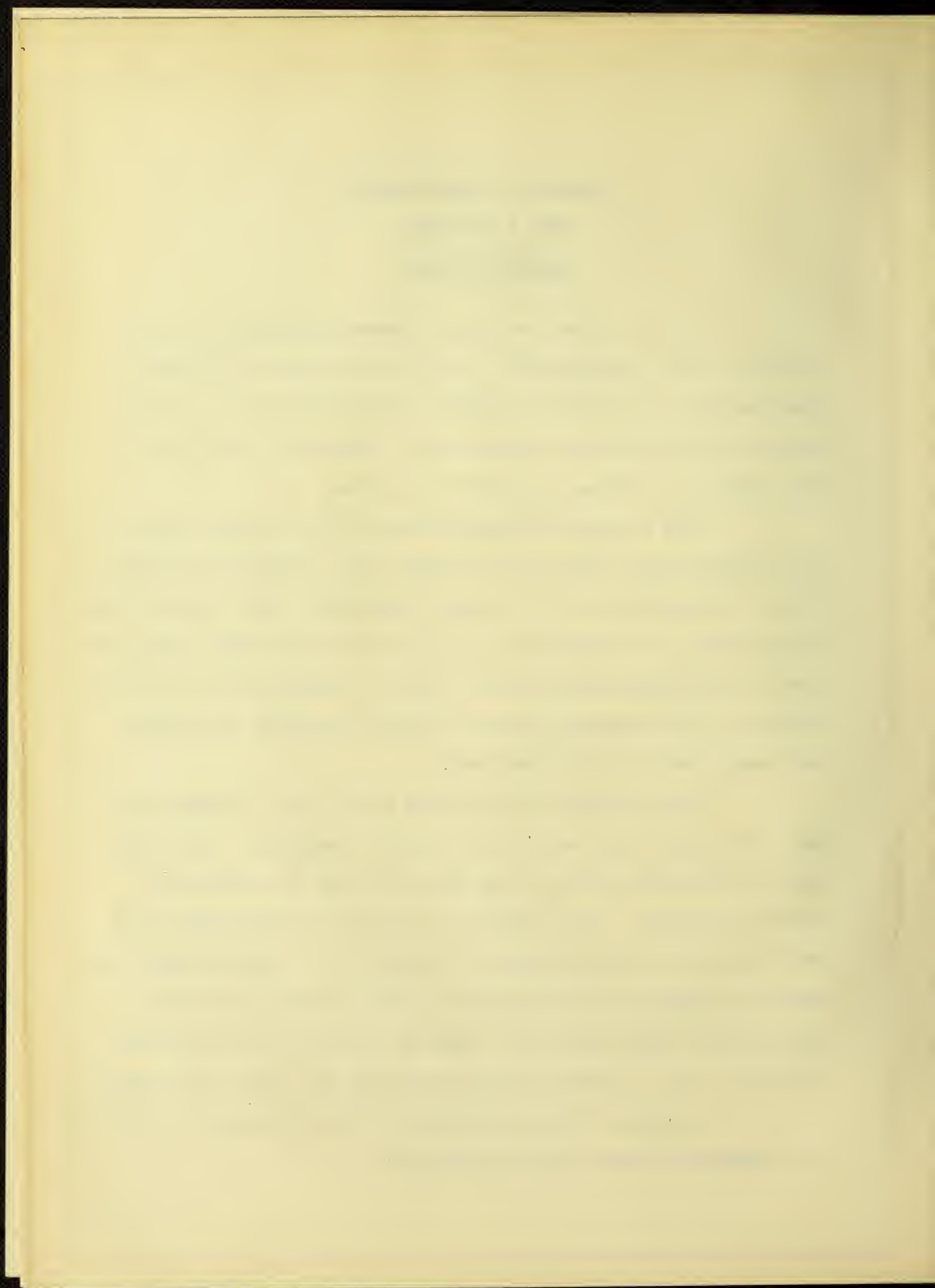
PROGRAM OF REQUIREMENTS
FOR A PROPOSED
MUSEUM-LIBRARY

It is proposed to build a museum-library in a city of about 70,000 inhabitants. It is to be located in a park which admits of a stately approach and surroundings. A gymnasium and other public buildings are supposed to be in the near vicinity, forming an interesting group.

Such a group of buildings would be of great help to any "neighborhood" center of a large city. It would furnish a place of amusement for the younger generation after school hours. It would help to do away with the vice so often found among the poorer and foreign sections of a city. Consequently it is the purpose of this museum-library to help to educate the people and teach them to appreciate art.

This building is to be one story and a basement and must not exceed 300 feet in its longest dimension. The lighting of the museum must be from above as this is considered the best practice. The library on the other hand should have ample natural light and plenty of fresh air. The delivery desk should be opposite the entrance in front of the stack room. The delivery hall should be a central feature of the building in order to get the best supervision with the least attendants.

In general the requirements of the plan are as follows, the dimensions being only approximate:-



Main Floor

Entrance vestibule

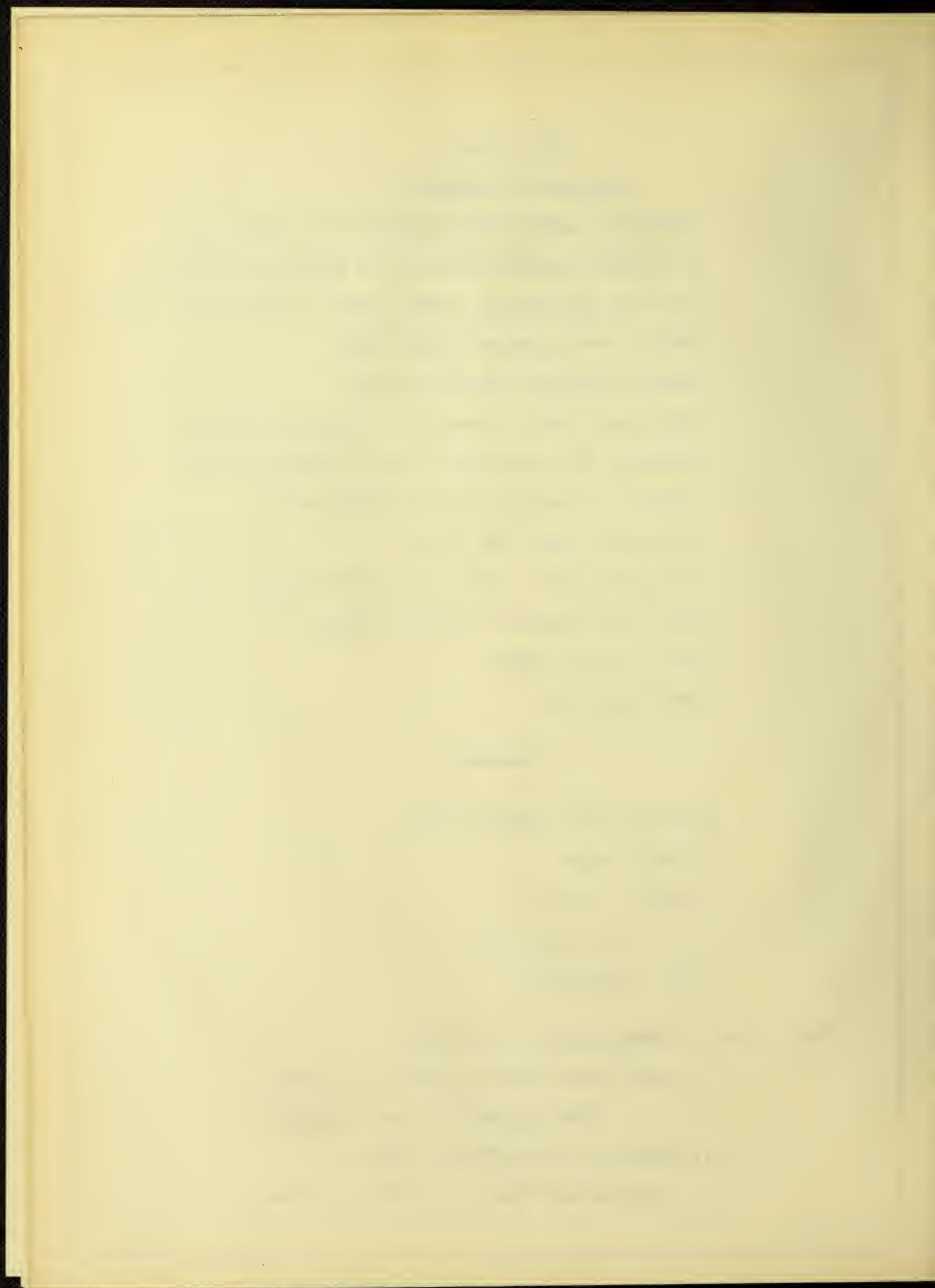
Monumental Hall affording place for exhibition
of sculpture and access to the museum and library.
Two large exhibition rooms 1800 to 2000 sq.ft. each.
Smaller ones grouped around them.
General Reading Room 2900 sq.ft.
(which may also be used as a reference room)
Newspaper and Periodical Room 750-1000 sq.ft.
Children's Reading Room 750-1000 sq.ft.
Librarian's Room 250 sq.ft.
Cataloguing Room (with lift) 250 sq.ft.
Stack room-capacity 60,000 volumes.
Public Toilet rooms
Coat rooms etc.

Basement

Receiving and Packing Room
Storage Rooms
Janitor's Room
Boiler and Fuel Rooms
Toilet rooms etc.

The following drawings are required:-

1. Main floor plan at 1/64" to 1 foot.
Showing complete surroundings.
2. Elevation at 1/8" to 1 foot.
3. Longitudinal Section 1/32" to 1 foot.



4. Side Elevation 1/64" to 1 foot.



SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM

In the United States, probably more than other countries, museums and libraries have been associated together and often combined into one building. This may be accounted for, to some extent in the similiarity of the service they render the public. Both have for their object, the education of the people, and both go about it in the same way, that is, by forming large collections and throwing them open to the public to enjoy. So since this connecting link between the museum and the library has become so strong, it is not surprising to find them united in one building.

The first thing to consider in such a plan, is which part is to be given the most importance. According to the requirements it seems natural to place the museum in the most important place as it must have the largest rooms. Also by placing the museum in front, it gives the people a chance to go in and walk around without disturbing the people in the library. On the other hand it does not seem at all objectionable for the people going to the library to have to go thru the museum. By so doing, they gain a little benefit from seeing the works of art etc. in spite of themselves, and their own object is attained at the same time. Therefore I decided to place the museum in front on the horizontal axes and the library at the rear on the vertical axis and the monumental hall serving both buildings.

Since the two parts of this plan are used for different

purposes, I have tried to show it, both in the shape of the plan and the character of the elevation. By making the reading room square in plan it differentiates it from the two rectangular exhibition rooms which form similar units of the museum. Also by making the walls of the library thinner than those of the museum, it expresses the fact that it is at the rear, and therefore of less importance and not carried up so high in the elevation. The windows too, of the library help to make it lighter both in plan and elevation.

A building of this kind should be monumental in character, dignified, and at the same time inviting, so that people will be filled with a desire to visit the inside, and not merely admire it from the outside. In order to give this character to the building I chose the classic style of architecture. It has, to my mind, the most refinement and beauty of all the styles. Its simplicity of outline and excellent proportion give it a dignity and grandeur of effect irrespective of the smallness of scale.

The interior should carry out this same character and yet the architecture should not be so important that it would detract from the objects on exhibition. All decorations should be simple and in keeping with the style. Color schemes should be light and restful and in no way conspicuous. In this way people will be impressed with the dignity and grandeur of the building and it will be filled with an atmosphere of quiet, peace, and study, which is always to be desired in such a place.

HISTORICAL

The Museum

A museum has been defined as a building or group of buildings arranged to contain collections of any kind for public inspection or for special study, or both. Specimens in natural history, anatomical and other preparations, and specimens used in the study of medicine, works of fine art, models, and objects gathered for archaeological study are all stored and exhibited in museums.

The museums of Europe and America are either (1) old buildings intended for a different purpose, (2) old buildings to which important alterations have been made, (3) buildings erected especially as museums. It is a noticeable fact that directors, guardians and builders of museums have never tried to determine the essential characteristics of this class of buildings. If the planing of museums had been studied like the libraries for instance, much more could be said about them. But most any kind of a building with large rooms lighted from above has answered the purpose of the museum. The earliest museum especially built for that purpose is as good as the very latest. Private picture galleries also have received no more attention than the public buildings.

In many of the ancient palaces, halls reserved for museum purposes have had skylights opened, and in many cases long galleries have been built, even to the extent of an additional upper story as in the Uffizi at Florence or the

Belvedere Museum formerly the principle one at Vienna, or as in the great galleries of the Louvre, where the uppermost story has been partly built for the purpose and partly altered so as to furnish the pictures with light from above. The Museo Nazionale in Florence is the old Bargello, the large halls and open galleries of which are used without alternation, the light being admitted thru the ancient windows. The halls of the Pitti Palace are used in exactly the same way.

The United States National Museum at Washington, is located at the Smithsonian Park. It is one of the oldest museums in this country being built in 1876. It is practically one great exhibition hall, since its partition walls are pierced at frequent intervals with broad and high arched openings. One fault to be found with this building is the fact that there is not enough space for work rooms and storage rooms. In the new building recently erected this fault has been corrected.

The lending of collections to public schools and other institutions has been started in this country and has done a great deal of good. In this ^{way}, more people can become better acquainted with the collections than if they were always left in the museums. It gives them a chance to examine them more closely and at their leisure.

Some of the important museums are:-

Burg Ring at Vienna 1889.

National Portrait Gallery in London 1895.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Brooklyn Institute of Art and Science.



HISTORICAL

The Library

According to Sturgis dictionary of Architecture, a library is a permanent collection of books: hence in architecture, any place provided for the keeping and arrangement of a collection of books, for continual public or private use.

Information as to the library buildings of antiquity is meagre. The clay tablets which constituted the literature of Babylonia and Assyria were stored on shelves in upper rooms of temples and palaces. The papyrus rolls of Egypt were shelved in rooms of palaces, temples and tombs until the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus, in the third century B.C., when we have the earliest mention of separate library buildings. The Greeks had no libraries but the Romans built several. Augustus built libraries about the year 37 B.C.

With the fall of the Roman Empire, the libraries of the classical period were scattered and destroyed. The Mohammedan princes seem to have collected large libraries, one at Cairo numbering 1,600,000 volumes, another at Tripoli with 3,000,000 volumes.

During the early centuries of the Christian era literature was kept alive by the ecclesiastics. Libraries were slowly gathered in cathedrals, and also in monasteries, especially by the Benedictine order. In the tenth century A.D. princes and nobles had caught from the clergy, the love of books, and began to make collections. In the fourteenth

Introduction

Chapter I

The first chapter of the book discusses the importance of understanding the historical context of the text. It begins by examining the social and political conditions of the time, which were characterized by significant changes in power and influence. The author then moves on to analyze the literary conventions and styles that were prevalent during this period, highlighting the unique features that distinguish this work from others of the same era. Finally, the chapter concludes by discussing the impact of these factors on the overall meaning and interpretation of the text, providing a solid foundation for the reader to explore the themes and arguments presented in the subsequent chapters.

and fifteenth centuries the great universities assumed the lead in literature, and started libraries. Then came the revival of learning and the invention of printing which gave a great impulse to the formation and growth of libraries, and led to the erection of separate buildings.

In 1433-4 Cosimo de' Medici built in Venice the library of S. Giorgio Maggiori and twenty years later restored the library of S. Marco at Florence, the predecessor of the Lamentian library which was designed by Michelangelo in 1515. The Libreria Vecchia at Venice was built in 1571; The Vatican Library at Rome in 1588 and the Bodleian at Oxford in 1597. In 1740 the circular and central reading room, so often adopted in later libraries appeared in the Radcliffe library at Oxford.

In America, the first building to be used for library purposes was that of the Loganian Library at Philadelphia, a plain, square, one story brick building like a typical country school house. The first type of library architecture developed in America appeared in 1837 in the erection of Gore Hall, the library of Harvard College which has a church like interior.



SOME OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF A LIBRARY

The plan of a library varies as it is small or large, growing or complete; as it is proprietary, collegiate, reference, or circulating; and as it is specialized in any direction as law, theology, or science. However certain essential conditions have been found necessary for all libraries which are as follows:-

- (1) A library should be planned for effective and economical administration of the special work to which the library is devoted.
- (2) It should be planned with a view to its available income, lest the cost of caring for too elaborate a building should cripple the proper work of the library.
- (3) No essential convenience of arrangement should be sacrificed for architectural effect.
- (4) It is wise not to build too much in advance of present needs, but to provide opportunities for future enlargement in each department as may be required.
- (5) If a library can occupy a separate building the problem of light and growth will be simplified. Where a museum or art gallery, or lecture room is to occupy the same building, a separate wing or separate floor should be assigned to the library.
- (6) Rooms for the use of children should be grouped so as to insure complete supervision with few attendants. Administration



rooms should be grouped according to the process of library work. The librarian's room should be the center of the system. Communication by bells or speaking tubes or telephones should be arranged between the working rooms.

(7) Simplicity of decoration should prevail in working rooms; and public service rooms should not be so decorated as to attract sightseers to the annoyance of readers.

There are two contrasted plans possible for a large library, one having a central stack with reading rooms on all sides; the other, a central reading room with radiating stacks.

Some Important Museum Libraries are:-

Lennox Library in New York

Museum Library, Grenoble, France

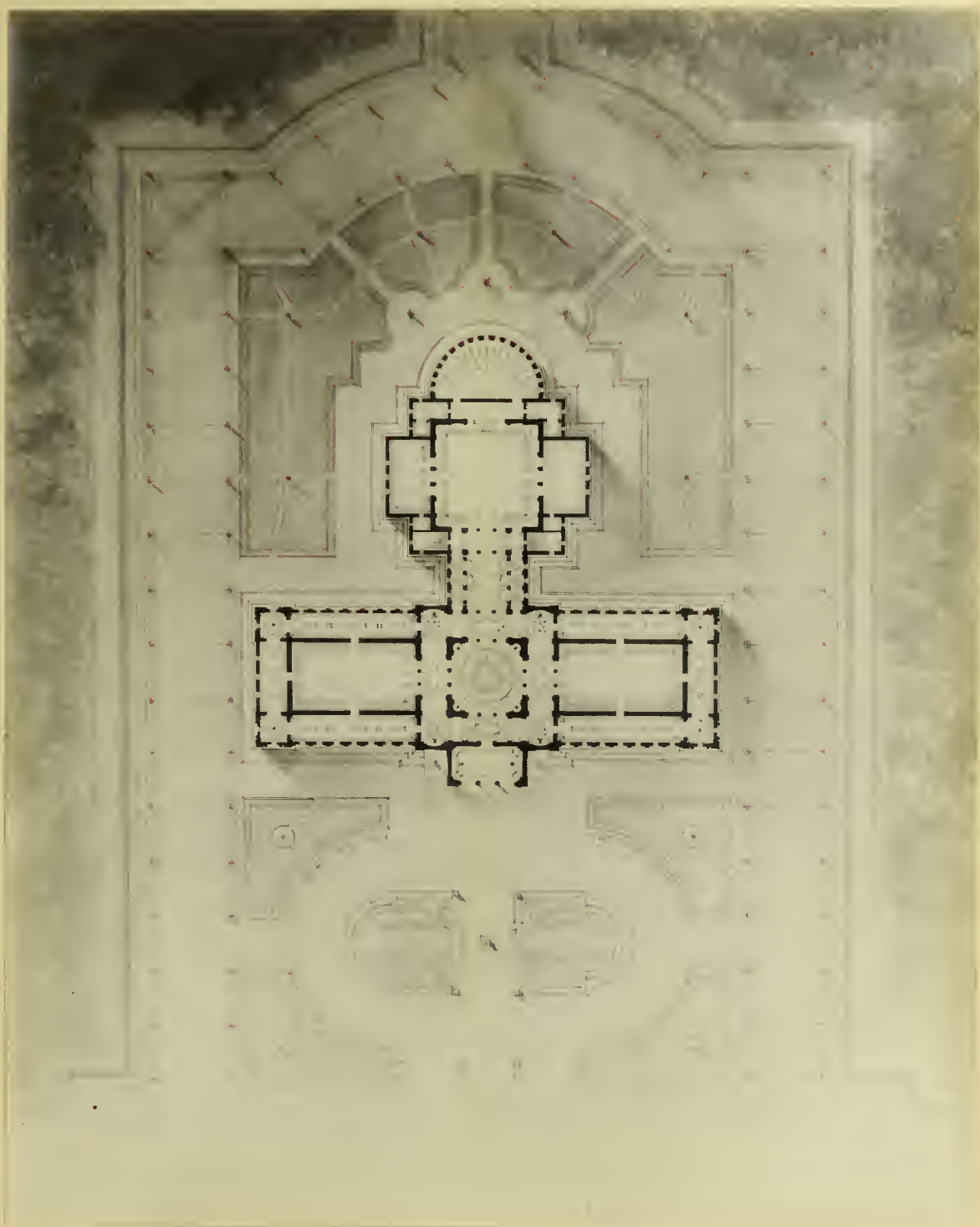
Public Library, St.Louis



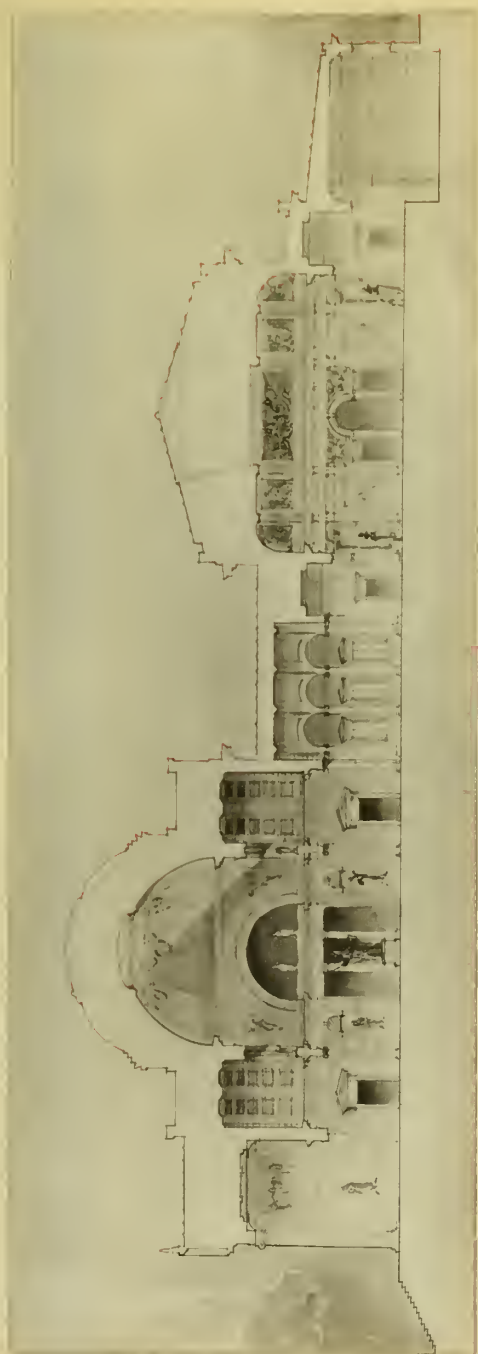
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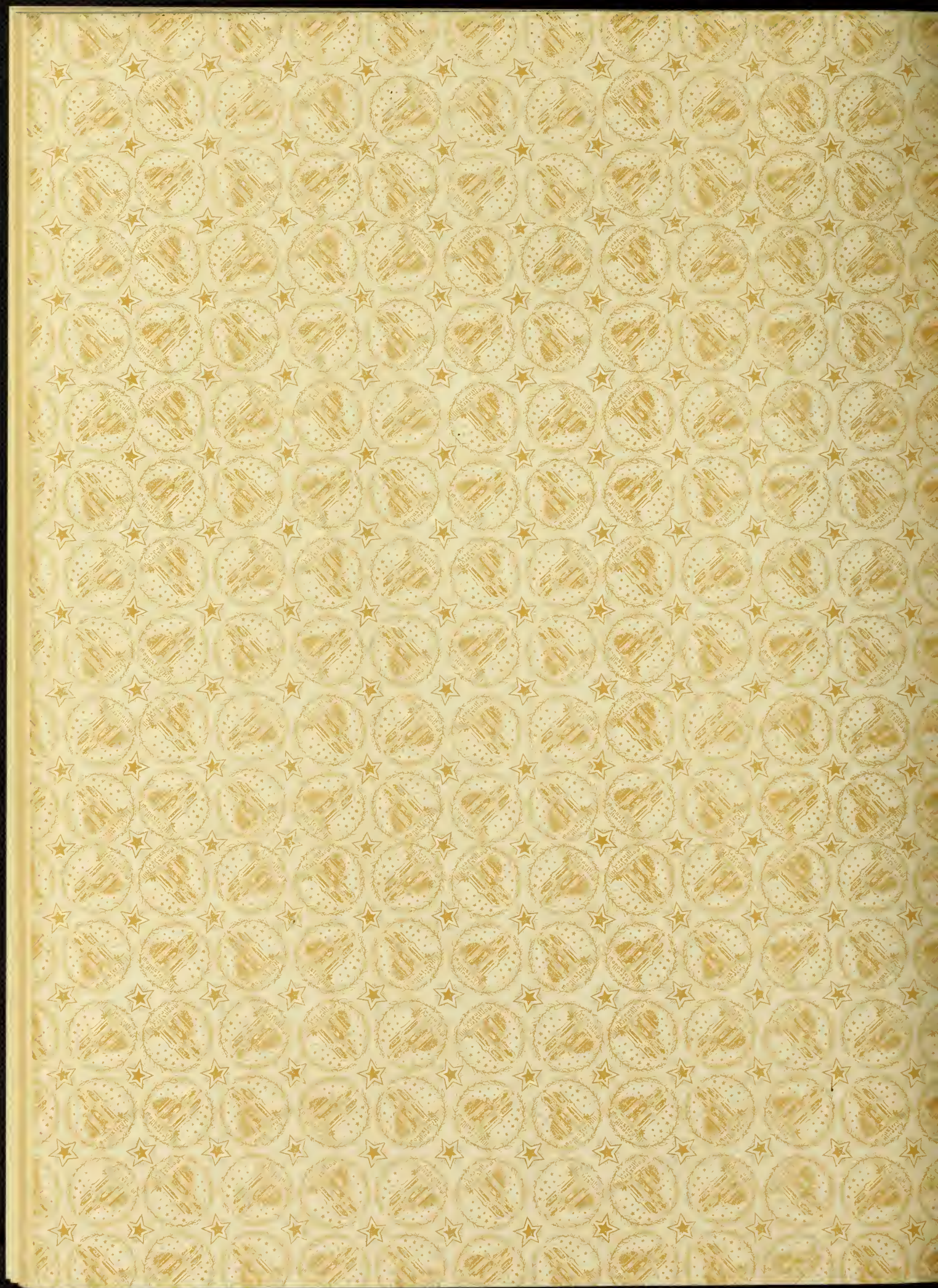
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LIBRARY
OF THE
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